

Residential Building Code has been developed and has now been adopted by many towns and cities in the state. Adoption and enforcement of such a code would prevent further development of substandard housing in the area.

Minimum Housing Code:

Housing codes specify minimum standards for living space and sanitary, heating, and lighting facilities for both new and existing housing. Both municipalities and counties may now adopt and enforce minimum housing ordinances. Some aspects of housing standards are subject to State Board of Health regulations, but town officials should give careful study to the necessity of adopting and enforcing a minimum housing ordinance, such as the Southern Standard Housing Code, to help eliminate some of the substandard housing conditions in Biscoe.

County-Wide Inspection:

Two acts passed by the 1969 General Assembly provide municipalities and counties with authority to establish inspection departments composed of whatever types of local inspectors they deem necessary, with great flexibility in organization. Two or more municipalities or counties or combinations thereof may create a joint inspection department, or a municipality or county may designate another unit's inspector to serve as a member of its own inspection department. Biscoe, along with the other municipalities in the county, should explore with Montgomery County the possibility of setting up a joint county-wide inspection department. The feasibility of adopting uniform codes and setting up a county-wide inspection system is also suggested by the following factors: 1) because of the technical nature of the job of building and housing inspection, the salary of a trained official may be higher than either a town or county can afford separately; 2) a consolidated staff can better distribute its work load than smaller separate staffs.